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Potters Bar Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year ending December 31st, 1937.

(DOROTHY CATCHPOOL, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.Lond.)

To the Chairman and Members of the
Potters Bar Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1937 on the Health conditions in the Urban District of Potters Bar.

The Report is drawn up in accordance with Circular No. 1650 issued by the Ministry of Health on the 4th October, 1937.

The district still continues to develop rapidly, and again in this connection it is interesting to note that the number of notifications of Infectious Diseases has not increased in proportion to the development. The number of cases of diphtheria is the same as in the previous year.

There were 84 deaths, which is equivalent to a death rate of 7.53 per thousand and compares very favourably with the death rate for the whole of England and Wales of 12.4 per thousand.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1937 is 55.5 per thousand births. The rate for England and Wales is 58 per thousand live births.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DOROTHY CATCHPOOL,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The District comprises the Parish of South Mymms and is situated in the County of Middlesex.

Area (in acres)	6,104
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid. 1937) ...	11,160
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books	4,001
Rateable Value (1937)	£128,971
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1937)	£471

Social Conditions, including Chief Industries.

The increased rate of building continues, and from the proposals before the Council it is apparant that there will be no reduction of this rate for some considerable time.

The majority of the newly erected houses continue to be occupied by the artisan owner, and I am still concerned as to how many people will continue to find employment in this district, as there is still little indication of industrial development.

Extent of Unemployment.

The number of unemployed persons is still low, and a large proportion of the labour employed on Estate development, continues to be drawn from outside the district.

Meteorology.

The total rainfall recorded at the Tyttenhanger Pumping Station, by the Barnet District Gas and Water Company's Rain gauge measured 31.49 inches during 1937.

Month.	Total Rain for Month.		Number of Wet Days with			
			0.01 or more ins.		0.04 or more ins.	
	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.	1936.	1937.
January	4.23	4.24	23	23	20	17
February	2.03	3.73	14	24	13	18
March	1.15	2.76	14	18	11	13
April	1.29	2.81	13	14	9	11
May	0.40	2.67	7	14	5	11
June	6.50	2.07	20	11	14	9
July	3.74	1.24	22	11	19	7
August	0.27	2.77	5	5	4	4
September	3.43	2.13	19	14	14	12
October	2.07	2.60	16	12	11	8
November	3.42	1.21	17	9	14	5
December	1.80	3.26	20	24	14	10
Totals	30.33	31.49	190	179	148	125

Extracts from Vital Statistics (after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar General).

	Total.	M.	F.	
Live (Legitimate) ...	189	97	92	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 17.74.
Births (Illegitimate)	9	4	5	
Still (Legitimate)	6	3	3	Rate per 1,000, total (live and still) births, 29.41.
Births (Illegitimate)	—	—	—	
Deaths	84	46	38	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 7.53.

Deaths from puerperal causes ... ... Nil.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	55.5
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	58.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	9
,, ,, measles (all ages)	Nil.
,, ,, whooping cough (all ages)	Nil.
,, ,, diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimated population for 1936 was 10,130 and for 1937, 11,160, but having regard to the fact that 409 houses were actually occupied during the year, the Registrar General's estimated increase appears to be very low. It is estimated, however, that the real population of the Council's district is more than 13,500.

The above figures clearly indicate the continued growth of the district, which, as mentioned previously, is to a large extent one of the dormitories of London.

The natural increase of the population by excess of births over deaths was 114.

The population for the past five years has been as follows :—

Year.	Registrar General.	Estimated.
1933	7,460	9,000
1934	8,570	10,000
1935	9,390	11,500
1936	10,130	12,500
1937	11,160	13,500

Births. Birth Rate.

The nett total births accredited to the district was 198, an increase of 39 on the preceding year. Of these 101 were males and 97 females. The birth rate was therefore 17.74 per 1,000 of the population.

The birth rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 14.9. The total number of births actually registered in the district during the year was ninety-two.

TABLE 2.

The following deaths occurred during the year :—

No.	Cause of Death.	F.	M.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2.	Measles	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	1	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—

No.	Cause of Death.	F.	M.	Total.
6.	Influenza	—	1	1
7	Encephalitis lethargica	—	—	—
8.	Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2	4
10.	Other tuberculous diseases	1	1	2
11.	Syphilis	—	—	—
12.	General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	—	—
13.	Cancer, malignant disease	3	6	9
14.	Diabetes	1	—	1
15.	Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	6	2	8
16.	Heart disease	8	12	20
17.	Aneurysm	—	—	—
18.	Other circulatory diseases	—	1	1
19.	Bronchitis	2	1	3
20.	Pneumonia	1	4	5
21.	Other diseases of the respiratory system (tuberculosis excepted)	—	—	—
22.	Peptic ulcer	—	1	1
23.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years of age)	—	1	1
24.	Appendicitis	1	—	1
25.	Cirrhosis of the liver	—	—	—
26.	Other diseases of the liver	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	1	1	2
28.	Acute and chronic nephritis	—	2	2
29.	Peurperal sepsis	—	—	—
30.	Other puerperal causes	—	—	—
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	3	4	7
32.	Senility	1	—	1
33.	Suicide	1	1	2
34.	Other violence	3	3	6
35.	Other defined causes	3	2	5
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	1
		38	46	84

TABLE 3.

Deaths from all causes, divided as to sex and certain age groups, and shewing a percentage of total deaths and death rate per 1,000 of population for each group.

Age. Years.	Males.			Females.			Totals.		
	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.	No.	% of Total Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
0—1	7	8.54	.63	3	3.66	.27	10	12.20	.90
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	1	1.22	.09	1	1.22	.09	2	2.44	.18
15—25	1	1.22	.09	3	3.66	.27	4	4.88	.36
25—45	2	2.44	.18	6	7.32	.54	8	9.76	.72
45—65	17	20.74	1.52	5	6.10	.45	22	26.84	1.97
Over 65	18	21.94	1.61	18	21.94	1.61	36	43.88	3.22
Totals	46	56.10	4.12	36	43.90	3.23	82	100.00	7.35

SECTION B.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health ...	Dorothy Catchpool, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. Lond.
Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor	Edwin Carr, M.Inst. M. & Cy.E., P.A.S.I., A.R.San.I. (to 30th June, 1937).
Additional Sanitary Inspector, and Surveyor's Assistant ...	Arthur W. Ruffell, A.R.San.I., Certificated Meat and Smoke Inspector. (Appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Council with effect from 1st July, 1937).
Clerk, Public Health Department	Vincent G. Hudson.

(*a*) **Laboratory Facilities.**

Specimens and Samples are sent for examination to the Clinical Research Association.

(*b*) *Ambulance Facilities.*

The ambulance of the Enfield and Edmonton Isolation Hospital is available when required in the case of infectious disease.

(*c*) **Nursing in the Home.**

Nurses F. Dennison (Queen's District Nurse) and Nurse D. M. Fitzpatrick (Queen's District Nurse) of 255, Mutton Lane, are registered as practising nurses and midwives.

(*d*) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**

There are two Clinics ; one at South Mymms and one at Potters Bar, provided by the Middlesex County Council, who are also about to erect a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in the neighbourhood of Cranborne Road, which is a rapidly growing area.

The times of attendance are as follows,

Infant Welfare Centres.

Village Hall, Potters Bar. Wednesdays, 2.30 p.m.
St. Giles's Parish Room, South Mymms. Thursdays, 2.30 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinic.

St. Giles's Parish Room, South Mymms. 2nd and 4th Thursday in each month, 9.30 a.m.

(*e*) **Hospitals.**

There are two hospitals within the district, the Pawling Home at Kitts End and the Cottage Hospital in Hospital Road but neither of these is connected with a Local Authority and the accommodation is small. Arrangements are being made for the erection of a new Cottage Hospital.

The Clare Hall Sanatorium, administered by the Middlesex County Council, is situated within the district. There is no isolation hospital in the district, but cases are sent to the Enfield and Edmonton Joint Hospital, by special arrangement.

It is anticipated that the Potters Bar Urban District Council will shortly become a constituent authority of the Enfield and Edmonton Joint Hospital Board.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply.

The district is supplied by mains of the Barnet District Gas and Water Company. The supply continues to be of good quality and is satisfactory, and following the taking of samples, reports to this effect have been presented to the Council during the year. Four samples of water were taken. Ninety-nine per cent. of the houses in the district are supplied.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The two Sewage Disposal Works within the District, one at Potters Bar and one at South Mymms, are in a good condition and produce effluent of a good standard. As mentioned in my report for last year The Potters Bar Sewage Disposal Works are subject to overloading in times of storm, but improvement in the under-draining of the sludge beds, together with the formation of temporary storm water storage tanks has resulted in an improvement pending the design and construction of additional temporary works, preliminaries for these extensions being already in hand.

South Mymms Sewage Disposal Works are quite adequate to deal with the present flow, and there does not appear to be any indication of any substantial development within the district served by these Works.

A very important step during the year under review was the commencement of the new relief sewer from the Potters Bar Sewage Disposal Works, through the Golf Course, and along Darkes Lane to its junction with Baker Street. This sewer, which is well advanced, will alleviate the flooding which has taken place in Quakers Lane, The Avenue, and The Avellane Estate. This new sewer is designed to take the flow from the ultimate population of a very large proportion of the Potters Bar area.

Rivers and Streams.

No cause for action was found to be necessary in connection with watercourses. The Middlesex County Council is the controlling authority of the major streams in the district.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically the whole of the District is on the water carriage system, only about one per cent. being on conservancy system. Regular inspections were made, but no cause for complaint was found.

Public Cleansing.

The weekly refuse collection has continued throughout the year in a very satisfactory manner, and with very few exceptions, the tradesmen have availed themselves of the arrangement made by the Council for trade refuse collection.

It is noticeable, however, that the paper and cardboard content of the refuse is increasing, and reference to this is to be made from time to time at the Council Meetings in order to secure publicity and to seek the co-operation of ratepayers in disposing of this form of house refuse in their own homes.

The refuse tip continues to be worked in a satisfactory manner although increasing difficulty is being found in having to remove large quantities of covering material which was deposited in the sandpit by the previous tenants. It is necessary to remove these deposits, firstly to obtain covering material, and secondly to secure as uniform a working depth as possible. This has meant a slightly increased working cost but even so, this form of disposal is well managed at a reasonable cost.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

A report from the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of this report.

Shops Acts.

29 Inspections were made during the year, but no action was found to be necessary under the provisions of the Shops Acts, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops, and to sanitary conveniences.

Smoke Abatement.

As the area is practically entirely residential, no nuisance was observed due to emission of smoke.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is one privately owned swimming pool in the district. It is open to the public and is used in connection with the San Martin Café on the Barnet By-pass. Several inspections were made but no cause for complaint was found. The water appears to be well treated and of a high standard. The accommodation provided is satisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Only one complaint was received of bug infestation. This was in a flat and disinfection was necessary. The architraves and picture rails were removed and scorched with a blow lamp. A proprietary disinfectant was used, and no further cause for complaint was found. The work was carried out by the owner.

Schools.

All schools within the District receive periodical inspection.

SECTION D. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 52

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 510

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 37

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose 462

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 52

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 51

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 ;

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 12

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 5

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... Nil.

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... ... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 5

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil.

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding :—

(*a*) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 7

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 7

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 34

(*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... Nil

(*c*) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 8

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 45

(*d*) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... Nil.

The provision of new Council houses is under consideration, and the completion of these, together with some re-arrangement of accommodation, will abate the overcrowding.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) **Milk Supply.**

Sixty-seven visits were made to the cowsheds in the District. Intimation Notices were served where necessary, and no difficulty was experienced in obtaining compliance with these notices. 24 samples of milk were taken. The Laboratory Reports indicate that the requirements of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, in respect of the samples of Accredited Milk are being satisfied. The Laboratory Reports in respect of the samples of Raw Milk shew a decided improvement over the previous year.

Farms and other premises used as Dairies	24
Wholesale Traders and Producers of Milk	19
Retail Purveyors of Milk	19
Accredited Producers (licensed by Middlesex C.C.)	9

(*b*) **Meat and Other Foods.**

There are two slaughter houses in the District. These are visited each time slaughtering takes place and all animals are subjected to post mortem inspection. The slaughterhouses are kept in good condition and the animals slaughtered therein are of a very good quality.

Shops, stalls and vehicles and places where food is prepared were examined at intervals, but no cause for complaint was found. There are five bakehouses in the district which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle (including Cows)	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	74	19	470	258
Number inspected	74	19	470	258
All diseases except tuberculosis :—				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	2	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.35	—	.43	1.55
Tuberculosis only :—				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	4	—	—	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.40	—	—	8.14

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and control over, infectious and other diseases.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) during the year, 1937.

	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet fever	11	9	—
Diphtheria	6	6	—
Enteric fever (including paratyphoid) ...	1	1	—
Puerperal fever	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia	5	2	2
Other diseases generally notifiable :—			
(*a*) Erysipelas	1	—	—
(*b*) Acute poliomyelitis	2	2	—
(*c*) Ophthalmia neonatorum	1	1	—
Other diseases notifiable locally	—	—	—

Analysis under Age Groups of Total cases notified.

	Under 1 year.	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/65
Scarlet fever	—	—	1	1	1	4	3	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	1	3	2	5	6	3	3	1	3

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was found to be necessary under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during the year 1937.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
15—25	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25—35	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1

Disinfection.

Disinfection is carried out in houses as required. The arrangement made with the Enfield Urban District Council to collect bedding, disinfect, and return to the house, continues to work very satisfactorily.

Report of Sanitary Inspector for Year 1937.

Nature of visit or inspection.

General Sanitation.

Water supply	12
Drainage	160
Factories	1
Workshops	1
Theatres and places of entertainment	6
Refuse Collection	7
Refuse disposal	11
Rats and mice	11
Shops	29
Miscellaneous sanitary visits	68
Petroleum	40

Housing.

Under Public Health Acts—	
Number of houses inspected	15
Visits paid to above houses	48
Under Housing Acts—	
Number of houses inspected	37
Visits paid to above houses	462
Overcrowding—	
Number of houses inspected	74
Visits paid to above houses	6
Verminous premises—	
Number of houses inspected	3
Visits paid to above houses	13
Miscellaneous visits	73

Infectious Disease.

Inquiries in cases of I.D.	17
Visits with reference to disinfection	5
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	13

Meat and Food Inspection.

Visits to slaughterhouses	216
Visits to shops and stalls	1
Visits to other premises	3
Visits to cowsheds	67
Visits to dairies and milk-shops	1
Visits in connection with sampling of milk for bacteriological examination	24
Water samples taken	4

Miscellaneous facts in connexion with the district.

Bakehouses—number in district	5
Cowsheds—number on register	20
Cowsheds—number of milch cows in district	450
Dairies and milkshops—number on register	16
Percentage of houses supplied with Public Water Service	99
Percentage of houses provided with water closets	99
Percentage of houses draining into sewer	98
Slaughterhouses—number in district	2

Unsound food—method of disposal. To controlled tip and limed.

The defects found were of a varying nature as indicated in the above list, but this does not include repairs to Council houses. In all cases a letter was sent to the person responsible for the work, and in nearly all cases very little trouble was experienced in having the repairs effected. In some cases, however, it was necessary to serve statutory notices, particularly with regard to the Housing Acts.

There are three fish frying establishments within the district. No complaints have been received in respect of these, and although the places were inspected frequently, no cause for complaint was found.

With reference to the dairies and milk shops, these are nearly all of a high standard. Unfortunately this is not so with regard to the cowsheds, but although improvements have been made, there will be a greater control when the Adoptive Articles of the Milk and Dairies Order come into force. The cleanliness in milk production shows an increasingly high standard.

Unsound meat is surrendered by the butchers and removed to the Sewage Works where it is destroyed. Every facility is afforded for inspections.

No unsound food was surrendered from any of the shops. The standard of shops in the district is fairly high.

As a result of inspections of various premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored, it was obvious that the conditions attaching to the existing licences were not sufficiently up to date. Most of the petroleum storing premises generally were kept in a satisfactory condition, but the various methods of storing metal containers, both full and empty, left much to be desired. A new set of conditions has been prepared and became operative from October, 1937.

There are 11 garages, 5 bakehouses, one varnishing factory, one printing works, 1 dressmaking establishment, 1 breeze block factory, 1 furniture repairing workshop and 5 boot repairing workshops in the district registered under these Acts. The number of employees is small in each case. Fifteen inspections were made, but no cause for complaint was found.

The removal of house refuse with the aid of the new 15 cu. yd. Dennis rear loading vehicle continues to be very satisfactory and the number of complaints received is very small indeed.

The Council has adequate and up-to-date scraping apparatus and the whole of the Council's system of sewers is now subject to regular examination, scraping and flushing.